



# Statistics Weekly

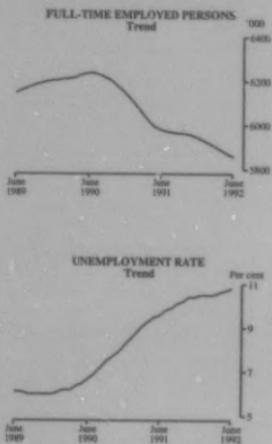
Thursday, 16 July 1992

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## Unemployment rate tops 11%

The unemployment rate in June 1992 (seasonally adjusted) rose by 0.6 percentage points to 11.1 per cent, the highest rate recorded in the history of the national labour force survey. Increases were also recorded in employment, unemployment, and the participation rate.



### Employment

The June 1992 seasonally adjusted estimate of employed persons was 7,691,300, a rise of 28,300 since May 1992. Full-time employment fell by 6,800, with a fall of 7,500 in the number of females employed full-time. Part-time employment increased by 35,100 to 1,834,300, with an increase of 26,500 in female part-time employment. Male part-time employment rose by 8,600. Trend estimates of total employment have decreased in each of the last five months.

### Unemployment

The seasonally adjusted estimate of unemployed persons for June 1992 was 963,500, an increase of 57,600 since May 1992. Male unemployment increased by 26,700 to 590,900 with increases of 13,400 and 13,300 in the number of males seeking full-time and part-time work respectively. Female unemployment rose by 30,900 to 372,600, mainly due to an increase of 17,500 in the number of females seeking part-time work. Trend estimates of total unemployment have been increasing in recent months. For persons seeking full-time work, the trend has continued to rise steadily while for persons seeking part-time work, the trend is relatively steady.

Within the overall seasonally adjusted estimate of the unemployment rate of 11.1 per cent, the male and female unemployment rates rose by 0.4 and 0.7 percentage points to 11.7 per cent and 10.3 per cent respectively. Trend estimates of the total unemployment rate have been increasing again in recent months and now stand at 10.8 per cent.

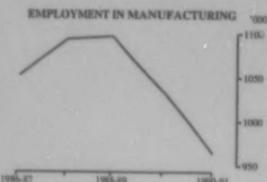
### Participation rate

The seasonally adjusted estimate of the labour force participation rate for June 1992 was 63.2 per cent, an increase of 0.6 percentage points since May 1992. Male and female participation rates rose to 74.7 per cent and 52.1 per cent respectively. The trend participation rate fell slightly to 62.8 per cent.

### LABOUR FORCE ESTIMATES Seasonally adjusted

	Employed				Unemployment rate — per cent —	Participation rate — per cent —	
	Full-time workers	Part-time workers	Total	Unemployed			
				— 100 —			
1992							
February	5,919.7	1,785.7	7,705.5	907.8	10.5	63.2	
March	5,903.1	1,787.7	7,690.8	900.1	10.5	63.0	
April	5,880.0	1,792.3	7,672.3	886.7	10.4	62.7	
May	5,863.7	1,799.2	7,663.0	905.9	10.6	62.7	
June	5,857.0	1,834.3	7,691.3	963.5	11.1	63.2	

## Manufacturing employment dips below one million



For the first time in more than 20 years the number of people employed in the manufacturing industry has fallen below a million.

Preliminary results from the 1990-91 Census of Manufacturing Establishments showed there were 963,900 people employed in manufacturing establishments in June 1991, 70,500 less than in 1989-1990 and the lowest number since the ABS began collecting manufacturing industry data on the present basis in 1968-69.

The industries that recorded the greatest falls in employment over the year to June 1991 were transport equipment (including motor vehicle and parts production) down 18,000 people (17%) to 88,400, and clothing and footwear down 10,900 people (16%) to 56,000.

Victoria recorded the biggest drop in employment, down 36,700 (10%) to 315,900 people.

The number of manufacturing establishments fell by 1,498 (4%) to 40,446.

The results also showed that turnover rose by 3 per cent from 1989-90 to \$173,529 million. However, this increase was basically due to price increases as the price index of articles produced by the manufacturing industry rose by 4 per cent over the same period. Wages and salaries rose by 1 per cent to \$27,608 million. Average wages and salaries rose by 8 per cent from 1989-90 from \$26,514 to \$28,641. Over the same period, average wages and salaries for all industries also rose by 8 per cent.

### MANUFACTURING ESTABLISHMENTS, 1990-91 Percentage change from 1989-90

	Employment	Turnover
New South Wales	-5	3
Victoria	-10	3
Queensland	-5	3
South Australia	-5	5
Western Australia	-6	-2
Tasmania	-4	0
<i>Australia</i>	-7	3

The industries which provided the largest contribution to turnover in 1990-91 were food, beverages and tobacco (20%) and chemical, petroleum and coal products (14%). The latter industry, together with basic metal products, was also among the least labour-intensive of the manufacturing industries (as measured by the ratio of turnover to employment).

The most labour-intensive industries were clothing and footwear, and wood, wood products and furniture.

For further information, order the publication *Manufacturing Industry, Australia, Preliminary (8201.0)*, or contact Mark Wise on (02) 268 4342 or Colin Nicholson on (02) 268 4541.



## Strengthening of the retail trend

The seasonally adjusted estimate of turnover for retail and selected service establishments for May 1992 shows a slight fall, 0.3 per cent, following a rise of 2.9 per cent in April.

Despite this slight fall, the trend estimate continues to strengthen, averaging a relatively strong growth of 0.7 per cent over the three months ended May 1992. The annual growth rate (May 1992 over May 1991) is currently 6.5 per cent.

Grocers, the largest industry covered by the survey, continues to show strong growth. 'Other' food stores are also maintaining the strong growth pattern evident over the past year. Department stores are showing some sign of recovery following a short period where the trend was in decline. Hotels, liquor stores and licensed clubs and clothing and fabric stores are each showing weak growth.

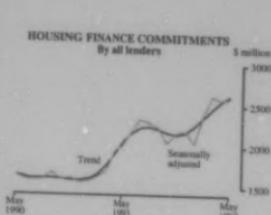
### RETAIL AND SELECTED SERVICE INDUSTRIES TURNOVER

	Original value in May 1992 \$ million	Average monthly percentage change in trend estimates	
		3 months ended May 1992	12 months ended May 1992
Grocers, confectioners, tobacconists	2,309	0.8	0.6
Butchers	190	1.4	0.4
Other food stores	555	1.2	1.3
<i>Total food group</i>	3,054	0.9	0.7
Hotels, liquor stores, licensed clubs	912	0.2	-0.3
Department and general stores	870	0.7	0.6
Clothing and fabrics stores	610	0.2	0.5
Electrical stores	419	-0.8	0.0
Pharmacies	331	0.8	0.1
Newspagets	272	0.8	0.7
Other industries	1,370	n.a.	n.a.
<i>All industries</i>	7,835	0.7	0.5

All States and Territories, apart from South Australia, showed relatively strong growth over the last three months with average growth ranging from 0.9 per cent for Queensland and Western Australia, to 0.6 per cent for the Australian Capital Territory.

### RETAIL AND SELECTED SERVICE INDUSTRIES TURNOVER Percentage change in State trend estimates

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	ACT	Aust.
1992								
January	0.6	0.4	0.8	-0.3	0.6	0.9	0.3	0.5
February	0.9	0.6	0.9	0.0	0.8	0.9	0.5	0.8
March	0.9	0.8	1.0	0.1	0.9	0.7	0.6	0.8
April	0.8	0.7	0.9	0.1	0.9	0.6	0.5	0.7
May	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.3	0.9	0.6	0.7	0.7



## Home lending levels out

Seasonally adjusted, finance was committed to individuals to finance 33,705 dwelling units for owner occupation in May 1992, down 0.6 per cent on April 1992 and only 0.4 per cent higher than March 1992. An increase of 259 dwelling units in the number of established dwelling units financed failed to offset the fall in commitments for construction and for newly erected dwellings, down 284 and 181 dwelling units respectively.

The provisional trend estimate of the number of dwelling units financed in May 1992 was 33,978, an increase of 748 dwelling units (2.3%) over April. This continues the upward trend which began in December 1991, although the monthly rate of increase has slowed since February.

HOUSING FINANCE COMMITMENTS, MAY 1992  
Seasonally adjusted

Purpose of commitment	Number of dwellings	Percentage change from	
		Previous month	Corresponding month of previous year
Construction of dwellings	6,546	-4.2	20.2
Purchase of newly erected dwellings	1,665	-9.8	25.8
Purchase of established dwellings	25,494	1.0	27.9
Total	33,705	-0.6	26.2

For further information, order the publication *Housing Finance for Owner Occupation, Australia* (5609.0), or contact Mark Dennis on (06) 252 7129 or Harry Wilson on (06) 252 6170.

## Australian social statistics guide

A comprehensive 273-page guide to the Australian Bureau of Statistics' (ABS) growing store of social statistics was released recently. The new publication, *A Guide to Australian Social Statistics*, is expected to attract wide interest from a range of users including government policy makers, analysts and academic researchers.

It lists information currently available from the ABS as well as covering major collections from other federal agencies.

Issues focused on are population, health, welfare, housing, education and training, labour, income and expenditure, crime and criminal justice and culture-leisure. The guide also contains an informative chapter on the development of methods and approaches to social statistics, both in Australia and internationally, over the last thirty years.

A 19-page index enables a relevant issue, such as housing costs or health risk factors, to be pinpointed for access to available ABS data.

For further information, order the publication *A Guide to Australian Social Statistics* (4160.0), or contact Mike Giles on (06) 252 6141.

## Inquiries

The ABS supplies a wide range of statistical information:

- through its bookshops
- by mail order (including subscription)
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## All the week's releases: 8 to 14 July

### General

- Publications Issued in June 1992 (1102.0; \$6.00)
- Publications Advice, 10 July 1992 (1105.0; free over the counter)
- Publications Advice, 14 July 1992 (1105.0; free over the counter)
- Statistics Weekly, 9 July 1992 (1318.0; \$4.20)

### Social statistics

- National Health Survey: Health Status Indicators, Vic., 1989-90 (4370.2; \$80.00) — *new issue*
- National Health Survey: Health Status Indicators, Qld, 1989-90 (4370.3; \$80.00) — *new issue*
- National Health Survey: Health Status Indicators, WA, 1989-90 (4370.5; \$80.00) — *new issue*
- National Health Survey: Health Status Indicators, SA, 1989-90 (4370.4; \$80.00) — *new issue*

### National accounts, finance and foreign trade

- Foreign Trade, Aust., Merchandise Imports, May 1992 (5433.0; \$9.50)
- Housing Finance for Owner Occupation, Aust., May 1992 (5609.0; \$10.50)
- State Estimates of Private New Capital Expenditure, March Qtr 1992 (5646.0; \$10.50)
- Local Government, Qld, 1990-91 (5502.3; \$18.00)
- State and Local Authorities Finance, SA, 1990-91 (5503.4; \$13.00)

### Labour statistics and prices

- The Labour Force, Aust., June 1992, Preliminary (6202.0; \$10.50)
- The Labour Force, Aust. — Preliminary Data on Floppy Disk, June 1992 (6271.0; \$65.00)
- Award Rates of Pay Indexes, Aust., May 1992 (6312.0; \$11.00)
- Industrial Disputes, Aust., March 1992 (6321.0; \$10.00)
- Price Indexes of Copper Materials, Aust., June 1992 (6410.0; \$5.50)
- Price Indexes of Materials Used in Coal Mining, Aust., May 1992 (6415.0; \$10.50)
- Labour Force, SA, May 1992 (6201.4; \$16.00)

### Agriculture

- Livestock and Livestock Products, Aust., 1990-91 (7221.0; \$21.00)

### Secondary industry and distribution

- Manufacturing Production, Aust.: Food, Drink, Tobacco, Stock and Poultry Food, April 1992 (8359.0; \$10.50)
- Manufacturing Production, Aust.: Building Materials and Fittings, May 1992 (8361.0; \$12.00)
- Manufacturing Production, Aust.: Transport Equipment, May 1992 (8363.0; \$6.00)
- Retail Trade, Aust., May 1992 (8501.0; \$10.50)
- Tourist Accommodation, Aust., March Qtr 1992 (8635.0; \$20.00)
- Building Activity, Aust., March Qtr 1992 (8752.0; \$14.50)
- Dwelling Unit Commencements Reported by Approving Authorities, NSW, March 1992 (8741.1; \$10.50)
- Tourist Accommodation, Qld, March Qtr 1992 (8635.3; \$20.00)

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## Suggestions

Any suggestions for improvement to this publication should be addressed to:

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(06) 252 6104

## Secondary industry and distribution — *continued*

Building Activity, Qld, March Qtr 1992 (8752.3; \$10.50)  
Building Activity, WA, March Qtr 1992 (8752.5; \$10.50)  
Building Approvals, Tas., May 1992 (8731.6; \$10.00)  
Building Activity, Tas., March Qtr 1992 (8752.6; \$10.50)  
Building Activity, ACT, March Qtr 1992 (8752.8; \$10.50)

## Transport

Motor Vehicle Registrations, Qld, May 1992 (9303.3; \$10.50)

## Calendar of key releases

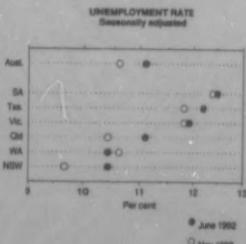
### Expected releases over the fortnight to 28 July 1992

#### July

- 17 Export Price Index, Australia, May 1992 (6405.0; \$8.00)  
Price Index of Materials Used in Building Other Than House Building, Eight Capital Cities, May 1992 (6407.0; \$10.50)  
Price Index of Materials Used in House Building, Six State Capital Cities and Canberra, May 1992 (6408.0; \$8.00)
- 21 Price Indexes of Materials Used in Manufacturing Industries, Australia, May 1992 (6411.0; \$10.50)  
Price Indexes of Articles Produced by Manufacturing Industry, Australia, May 1992 (6412.0; \$10.50)
- 23 Import Price Index, Australia, May 1992 (6414.0; \$8.00)
- 24 Manufacturing Production, Australia, June 1992, Preliminary (8301.0; \$10.50)
- 27 Registrations of New Motor Vehicles, Australia, June 1992, Preliminary (9301.0; \$10.50)

## The latest ...

### Changes to key State indicators — consolidated to 14 July 1992



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	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
— Percentage change from same period previous year —									
New capital expenditure (Mar. qtr 92) <sup>†</sup>	-33.1	-21.8	-18.4	-24.7	-1.5	5.7	n.a.	n.a.	-22.8
Retail turnover (May 92) (trend estimate)	6.6	4.7	9.4	0.1	10.1	5.0	n.a.	8.7	6.5
New motor vehicle registrations (May 92) <sup>†</sup>	-3	1.5	20.0	-4.3	19.9	-6.6	-2.4	-27.0	0.3
Number of dwelling unit approvals (May 92)*	9.9	1.8	37.2	-11.5	40.6	-16.7	0.0	1.7	18.5
Value of total building work done (Dec. qtr 91)	-22.0	-18.8	9.3	-23.5	-14.6	26.9	-3.6	7.3	-13.3
Employed persons (June 92)*	-0.6	-0.4	1.3	-2.8	2.1	-2.2	-0.2	-1.0	-0.2
Capital city consumer price index (Mar. qtr 92)	1.2	2.1	1.7	2.6	0.9	2.1	2.1	2.6	1.7
Average weekly earnings (full- time adult ordinary time) (Feb. 92)	5.5	3.4	3.2	5.3	3.1	3.2	5.7	5.3	4.4
Population (June 91)	1.3	1.1	2.2	1.2	2.0	0.9	1.0	2.9	1.5
Room nights in licensed hotels and motels, etc. (Mar. qtr 92)	1.7	4.4	8.0	0.5	5.1	-0.7	14.6	2.4	4.0

\* Seasonally adjusted except for NT and ACT. † Seasonally adjusted except for Tas., NT and ACT.

# The latest ...

Key national indicators - consolidated to 14 July 1992

	Period	Latest figure available		Percentage change (a) on	
		Original	Seasonally adjusted	Previous period	Corresponding period last year
<b>National production</b>					
Gross domestic product (A) — 1984-85 prices	\$m	Mar. qtr 92	n.a.	64,762	0.6
New capital expenditure — current prices	\$m	Mar. qtr 92	4,944	5,565	-2.7
— 1984-85 prices	"	"	3,898	4,386	-2.3
Expected new capital expenditure	"	Three months to June 92	6,727	n.a.	n.a.
Retail turnover — current prices	"	May 92	7,835	8,017	-0.3
— 1984-85 prices	"	Mar. qtr 92	14,755	15,531	1.1
New motor vehicle registrations	no.	May 92	42,270	41,127	-3.8
Dwelling unit approvals	no.	May 92	13,883	13,307	-4.5
Value of all building approvals	\$m	May 92	1,933	1,702	-13.0
Value of total building work done	"	Mar. qtr 92	5,278.8	5,739.3	-0.1
— current prices	"	"	3,452.4	3,731.8	0.7
Manufacturers' sales — current prices	"	Mar. qtr 92	32,884	35,130	1.8
— 1984-85 prices	"	"	22,814	24,284	1.1
Expected manufacturers' sales	"	Three months to June 92	35,070	n.a.	n.a.
<b>Industrial activity</b>					
New capital expenditure — current prices	\$m	Mar. qtr 92	4,944	5,565	-2.7
— 1984-85 prices	"	"	3,898	4,386	-2.3
Expected new capital expenditure	"	Three months to June 92	6,727	n.a.	n.a.
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— 1984-85 prices	"	"	22,814	24,284	1.1
Expected manufacturers' sales	"	Three months to June 92	35,070	n.a.	n.a.
<b>Labour</b>					
Employed persons	'000	June 92	7,701.4	7,691.3	0.4
Unemployment rate †	%	"	10.6	11.1	0.6
Participation rate †	"	"	62.9	63.2	0.6
Job vacancies	'000	May 92	24.3	24.8	-6.9
Average weekly overtime per employee	hours	"	1.09	1.10	-1.5
<b>Prices, profits and wages</b>					
Consumer price index	1989-90 = 100.0	Mar. qtr 92	107.6	n.a.	0.0
Price index of materials used in manufacturing industries	1984-85 = 100.0	Apr. 92	120.5	n.a.	0.4
Price index of articles produced by manufacturing industry	1988-89 = 100.0	Apr. 92	111.8	n.a.	0.2
Company profits before income tax	\$m	Mar. qtr 92	2,779	3,469	12.8
Average weekly earnings (Full-time adults; ordinary time)	\$	Feb. 92	589.20	n.a.	1.8
<b>Interest rates (b) (monthly average)</b>					
90-day bank bills †	% per annum	Mar. 92	7.55	n.a.	0.05
10-year Treasury bonds †	"	"	9.90	n.a.	-0.15
<b>Balance of payments</b>					
Exports of merchandise	\$m	May 92	4,887	4,536	-4.5
Imports of merchandise	"	"	4,211	4,386	1.3
Balance on merchandise trade (c)	"	"	676	150	-64.6
Balance of goods and services (c)	"	"	471	-39	n.a.
Balance on current account (c)	"	"	-650	-1,131	-19.8
Terms of trade (d)	1984-85 = 100.0	Mar. qtr 92	n.a.	100.5	2.8
<b>Foreign investment</b>					
Net foreign debt	\$m	31 Mar. 92	148,124	n.a.	2.4
Net foreign liabilities	"	"	199,312	n.a.	3.4
<b>Exchange rates (monthly average)</b>					
SUS	per \$A	May 92	0.7563	n.a.	-0.8
Trade weighted index	May 1970 = 100.0	"	57.1	n.a.	-1.9
<b>Other indicators</b>					
Population (resident at end of qtr)	million	Dec. 91	17.4	n.a.	0.3
Overseas visitor arrivals	'000	Apr. 92	204	219	6.2

(a) Based on seasonally adjusted figures where available. (b) Source: Reserve Bank of Australia. (c) For percentage changes, a minus sign indicates an increase in the deficit; no sign means a decrease in the deficit or an increase in the surplus. (d) The ratio of the price of goods and services for exports to that for imports.

NOTES: (i) A change is shown in terms of percentage points. n.a. = not available. Figures have been taken from a variety of ABS publications. Copies may be obtained from Information Services (see page 6). Some of the figures shown are preliminary, some final, and some are revisions of previously published figures. Users should check the latest relevant publication or with the ABS Information Services if the status of the statistic is important.

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